[redacted] NID 81[redacted]

February 17, 1981

POLAND

The new government of Prime Minister Jaruzelski will face its first major test if students follow through on their threats to stage nationwide demonstrations today. [redacted]

Negotiations were deadlocked on whether the statutes for their new student union should recognize "the leading role" of the party and on the ground rules for student strikes. A student leader late yesterday claimed the government rejected student concessions in these areas, and refused to sign an agreement. [redacted]

Government and Solidarity representatives, meanwhile, apparently will meet Thursday to discuss a wide range of issues. The government probably wanted an early meeting to show its good faith and to help encourage Solidarity's national leadership tomorrow to endorse strongly the proposed strike moratorium. The union seems likely to approve the moratorium on the condition that the government continues to negotiate and does not arrest union activists. [redacted]

A Solidarity spokesman, interviewed by a major Warsaw daily yesterday, said the union's main complaints at present concern union access to the media and tough government regulations restricting strike pay. The spokesman welcomed the new government, asked that it treat Solidarity as a "respected social partner," and said that the union may be willing to defer implementation of some of the economic provisions of the Gdansk accords. [redacted]

Farmers in Rzeszow began talks with the government yesterday and, as expected, dropped their demand for a union until after a new labor law is passed. A spokesman for the farmers expects the talks to end successfully within three days. Solidarity leader Walesa is participating in the negotiations. [redacted]

Soviet Endorsement

Jaruzelski has received strong endorsements from the Soviet Union and those Warsaw Pact countries that have expressed greatest alarm over developments in Poland.

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The Soviets and East Germans took the unusual step of sending congratulatory telegrams signed by party leaders as well as the heads of government. Moscow favorably noted Jaruzelski's call for order last week, claiming that sentiment favors a "resolute rebuff" of actions leading to chaos and anarchy. The Soviet media also reported that one of Poland's official trade unions has endorsed Jaruzelski's call for a 90-day strike moratorium--a move that seems an implicit Soviet endorsement of the cooling-off period and an indirect warning to Solidarity that it too should comply. Soviet reporting has avoided emphasizing Jaruzelski's military credentials, apparently reflecting Soviet sensitivity to the precedent of a military man occupying a top leadership position in Eastern Europe. [redacted]

Party leader Kania's quick trip to Prague on Sunday probably was intended to ease Czechoslovak concerns over Polish events before the Warsaw Pact leaders gather in Moscow for the Soviet party congress beginning next Monday. The Czechoslovaks, who have been one of Warsaw's harshest critics, seem encouraged by the Kania regime's recent show of toughness, but clearly are looking for actions that give substance to this show. Polish government sources have not ruled out a Kania visit to East Germany. [redacted]

Urgent Meeting in East Berlin

[redacted] tomorrow at an important meeting in East Berlin to discuss "the new situation." We do not know the purpose of the meeting--it may involve problems with Polish guest workers or with the recent shutoff of coal deliveries from Poland--but the urgency suggests some relationship with events in Poland. [redacted]

Military Situation

[redacted]

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Soviet forces in and around Poland continue to conduct exercises. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Economic Situation

Poland's inability to supply its East European neighbors with coal and raw materials, combined with diversions of needed agricultural and consumer goods to the Polish market, continues to adversely affect the region's level of economic activity. East German factories have been shut down because of a lack of raw material supplies. East German industries, cut off from Poland's bituminous coal supplies, are being forced to convert to use of domestically produced lignite. And, Czechoslovakia's consumer goods shortages have been heightened by shipments of food and goods to Poland.

[redacted]

Solidarity Delegation To Visit Sweden

A high-ranking delegation from Solidarity will confer with the Swedish central trade union leaders in Stockholm on 23-28 February. Discussions will center on Western trade union aid, which the Swedish unions have been funneling to Poland since last fall. The Poles also want to study Swedish union operations, probably in the hope of gaining insights from the Swedish system of worker participation in industrial management and the unions' education-propaganda programs. [redacted]